

## **Children’s Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School Launch Innovative Distance Learning Website for Child Health Educators and Clinicians**

November 2003: Children’s Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School, with support from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, announce the launch of a new distance learning website, *Pediatrics in Practice* ([www.pediatricsinpractice.org](http://www.pediatricsinpractice.org)), a faculty development health promotion curriculum. Based on the *Bright Futures* principles that prevention works, families matter, and health promotion is everyone’s business, this website supports child health educators and clinicians with effective strategies to convey health promotion content using core teaching methods. The launch of this site comes at a time when the advancement of competencies recommended by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) are driving the need for superior patient care and improved health outcomes.

Henry Bernstein, DO, associate chief of General Pediatrics at Children’s Hospital Boston and editor of *Pediatrics in Practice*, says, “this health promotion curriculum provides innovative techniques and solutions for enhancing health care encounters with children and families.” Through the resources presented on the site, child health educators will prepare their learners with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to communicate effectively, partner with, and educate children and families as their advocates to promote health and prevent illness in a time efficient manner. Practicing clinicians and those in training may also use this website to improve the clinical strategies needed to incorporate efficient and meaningful health promotion activities into daily practice.

This website highlights six essential concepts (partnership, communication, health promotion, time management, education, and advocacy) along with widely used teaching strategies (brainstorming, buzz group, case discussion, mini-presentation, reflective exercise, and role play), summarized in a user-friendly facilitator’s guide.

The communication module and reflective exercise teaching strategy are presented as fully interactive e-learning modules. Online interactive lessons are being developed for the other modules and teaching strategies. The entire curriculum is available for downloading.

*Pediatrics in Practice* was created by the *Bright Futures* Health Promotion Workgroup, a national expert panel of pediatricians, clinician educators, nurses, and parents. It was produced by Biomedical Media in Sharon, MA. This website can be found at [www.pediatricsinpractice.org](http://www.pediatricsinpractice.org) and is available at no-charge. Educators and clinicians alike maybe interested in the upcoming release of a *Pediatrics in Practice* paper-based publication and video.